

FACT SHEET

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)

Where did this grant come from?

- In 1997, Congress created the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) program and appropriated new federal funds through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).
- The JAIBG program is based on Title III of H.R.3, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants of 1997, as passed by the House of Representatives on May 8, 1997.
- In November of 2002, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program was included as part of President George W. Bush's 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Act which reauthorized several juvenile justice programs. The program was officially authorized as part of the "Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act of 2002."
- The reauthorization included several significant changes to the JABG program, most notably renaming the program to the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG).
- The goals of the program include:
 1. Reduction of juvenile delinquency
 2. Improvement of the juvenile justice system
 3. Increased accountability for juvenile offenders
- The Governor's Division for Children has been designated as the state agency responsible for administering the JABG program in Arizona.
- The Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission supports the efforts of the Governor's Division for Children to administer Arizona's JABG funds, and serves as the JABG State Advisory Board (JSAB)). Responsibilities of the AJJC with regard to JABG include developing the JABG State Plan (coordinated plan for reducing juvenile crime) in order to determine how JABG funds might best facilitate the improvement of Arizona's juvenile justice system and for identifying priority purpose areas for the expenditure of State Retained/Interest funds.
- Funding to local units of governments is administered on an entitlement, non-competitive formula based distribution.

What types of programs will this grant support?

- JABG funds support sixteen program purpose areas:
 1. Establishing drug court programs to provide continuing judicial supervision over developing, implementing, and administering graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders.
 2. Building, expanding, or operating juvenile correction and detention facilities, including staff training.

3. Hiring juvenile court judges, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders and special advocates, and funding pretrial services (including mental health screening and assessment) for juvenile offenders, to promote the effective and expeditious administration of the juvenile justice system.
4. Hiring additional prosecutors to increase prosecution of cases involving violent juvenile offenders and to reduce case backlogs.
5. Providing funding to enable prosecutors to address drug, gang, and youth violence problems more effectively and for technology, equipment, and training to assist prosecutors in identifying and expediting the prosecution of violent juvenile offenders.
6. Establishing and maintaining training programs for law enforcement and other court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime.
7. Establishing juvenile gun courts for the prosecution and adjudication of juvenile firearms offenders.
8. Establishing drug court programs to provide continuing judicial supervision over juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems and to integrate the administration of other sanctions and services for such offenders.
9. Establishing and maintaining a system of juvenile records designed to promote public safety.
10. Establishing and maintaining interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts.
11. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.
12. Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments of juvenile offenders that facilitate effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services, including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment, to such offenders.
13. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety.
14. Establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs.
15. Establishing and maintaining programs to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism.

16. Hiring detention and corrections personnel and establishing and maintaining training programs for such personnel, to improve facility practices and programming.

Who is eligible to apply for these dollars?

- **Units of local government** (city, county, township, or other political subdivision) or tribal governments are eligible to apply.
- Units of local government are required to form a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition to develop a Coordinated Enforcement Plan to Reduce Juvenile Crime in order to maximize resources.

How much is available for programs?

- Grants are awarded to states, which are then required to pass through a majority of the funding (75% minimum) to eligible local units of government.
- The state allocates funds to units of local government using a formula that combines:
 1. Law enforcement expenditures for each unit of local government for the three most recent calendar years for which data is available (2/3)
 2. Average annual number of Uniform Crime Report Part I violent crime arrests reported by each unit of local government for the three most recent calendar years for which data is available (1/3)
- This ratio is based on the aggregate data for all units of general local government in the State.
- A unit of local government must qualify for a minimum of \$10,000 in order to be eligible to receive a direct award.

What and when is the application process?

- The Governor's Division for Children will notify units of local government of their available allocation in **early June**.
- Subsequently, local units of government are required to submit notice of their intent to apply for funds, collaborate with another unit of local government, or waive their allocation.
- Upon receipt of the notice of intent, the Governor's Division for Children will distribute JABG applications in **mid-July**.
- Completed applications are due **August 30th** of each year and awards are made **October 1st**.

Questions

If you have any questions about the JABG program, please contact the JABG Program Administrator GOCYF, Division for Children 602-542-3496.